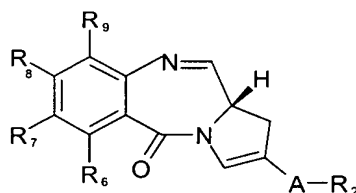


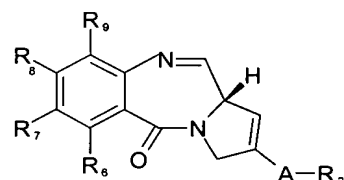
## LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound of the formula **Ia** or **Ib**:



(Ia)



(Ib)

wherein:

- (a) A is CH<sub>2</sub>;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>R, COH, COR, SO<sub>2</sub>R, or CN[.,.];

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R<sub>8</sub> is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn, where R is as defined above; or

- (b) A is a single bond;

R<sub>2</sub> is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms;

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and R<sub>8</sub> is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn, where R is as defined above, or where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **Ia** or **Ib**, where the R<sub>8</sub> groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R<sup>1</sup>-X- linking the monomers, where R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> together form a group -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-O-, where p is 1 or 2; or

(c) A is CH<sub>2</sub>, or a single bond;

R<sub>2</sub> is selected from: R, OH, OR, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>R, COH, COR, SO<sub>2</sub>R, or CN,

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

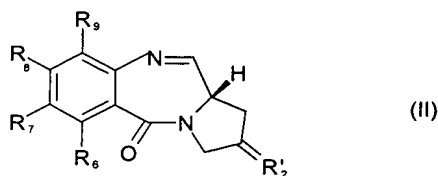
where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups; and

where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **Ia** or **Ib**, where the R<sub>8</sub> groups of the monomers form together a

bridge having the formula  $-X-R^1-X-$  linking the monomers, where  $R^1$  is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N; or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  together form a group  $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$ , where p is 1 or 2.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is  $CH_2$ .
4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 3, wherein  $R_2$  is  $CO_2H$ ,  $CO_2R$ , or  $CH_2OH$ , ~~or  $CH_2OR$~~ .
5. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 4, wherein  $R_2$  is  $CO_2Me$ ,  $CO_2^tBu$ , or  $CH_2OH$ , ~~or  $CH_2OAe$~~ .
6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1(c), wherein A is a single bond, and  $R_2$  is an aryl group, or an alkyl or alkaryl group which contains at least one double bond which forms part of a conjugated system with a double bond of the pyrrolobenzodiazepine compound C-ring.
7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently selected from H and OR.
8. (Original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently selected from H, OMe and  $OCH_2Ph$ .
9. (Original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein  $R_7$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are OR, and  $R_6$  and  $R_9$  are H.
10. (Original) A compound according to claim 9, wherein  $R_7$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently either OMe or  $OCH_2Ph$ .
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula  $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$ , where q is from 3 to 12.

13. (Previously presented) A compound of formula **II**:



wherein:

R<sub>2</sub>' is O;

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

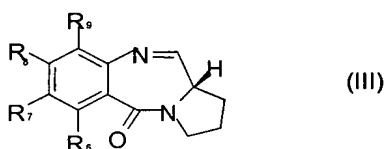
and where the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **II**, where the R<sub>8</sub> groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R<sup>1</sup>-X- linking the monomers, where R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 13, wherein R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, OMe, OCH<sub>2</sub>Ph, and I.

17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, wherein  $R_7$  is OR or a halogen and  $R_6$  and  $R_9$  are H.
18. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, wherein  $R_7$  is selected from OMe,  $OCH_2Ph$  or I.
19. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 13, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula  $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$ , where q is from 3 to 12.
20. (Previously presented) A compound of the formula **III**:



wherein:

$R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro,  $Me_3Sn$ ;

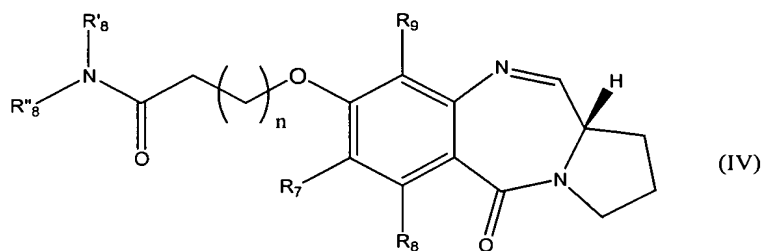
where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

and  $R_8$  is amino.

21. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 20, wherein only one of  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  is H.
22. to 24. (Cancelled)
25. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 20, wherein at least one of  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  is an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, which is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

26. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 25, wherein at least one of R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>, is a phenyl group, optionally substituted by one or more nitro groups.
27. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 26, wherein at least one of R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>, is selected from: Ph, m-NO<sub>2</sub>-Ph and p-NO<sub>2</sub>-Ph.
28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) A compound of formula IV:



wherein:

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

where R is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or one or more carbonyl groups, or one or more ether or thioether groups, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups;

R<sub>8</sub>' and R<sub>8</sub>'' are either independently selected from H, R or together form a cyclic amine; and n is from 1 to 7.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 29, wherein R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are selected from H and OR.

33. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 32, wherein R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are selected from OMe, OEt and OBn.

34. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 32, wherein n is 1 to 3.

35. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, claim 13, claim 20 or claim 29 wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an

alkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

36. (Original) A compound according to claim 35, wherein R is selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

37. (Original) A compound according to claim 36, wherein R is an unsubstituted straight or branched chain alkyl having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

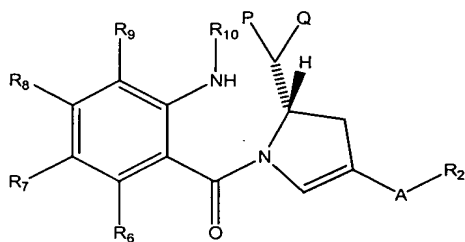
38. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 or claim 50 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

39. (Cancelled)

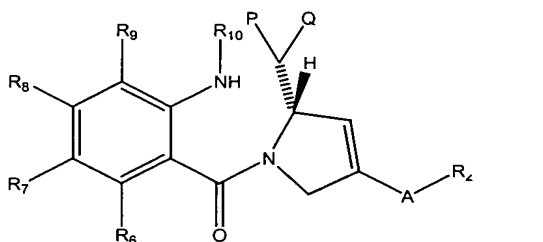
40. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 29 to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and ovarian cancer.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



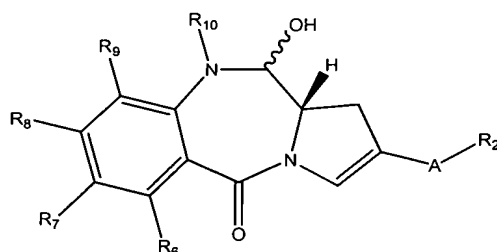
OR



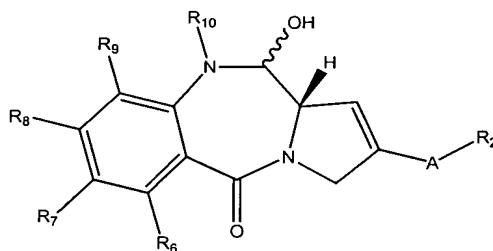
;



wherein A, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are as defined in claim 1, R<sub>10</sub> is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;  
to a compound of formula



or



wherein A, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are as defined above and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 1.

43. to 45. (Cancelled)

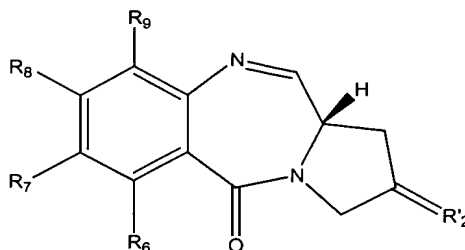
46. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

47. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

48. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

49. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

50. (Previously presented) A compound of formula **II**:



wherein:

R'<sub>2</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>;

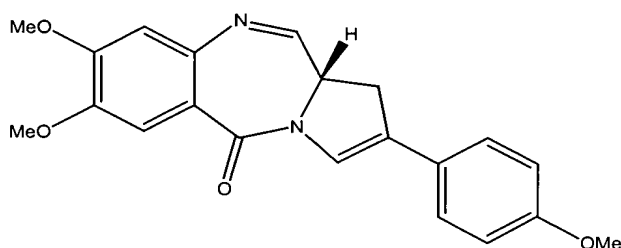
R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn;

where R is lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group of up to 12 carbon atoms, whereof the alkyl group optionally contains one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system, or an aryl group of up to 12 carbon atoms; and is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally containing one or more carbonyl groups or one or more ether or thioether groups;

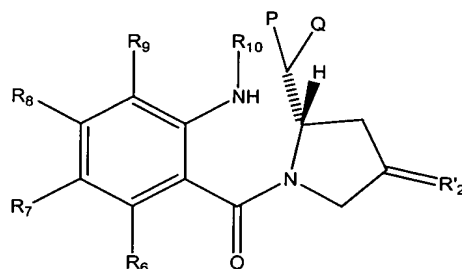
and R<sub>8</sub> is selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, amino, NHR, nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn, where R is as defined above or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being the same or different and being of formula **II**, where the R<sub>8</sub> groups of the monomers form together a bridge having the formula -X-R<sup>1</sup>-X- linking the monomers, where R<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene chain containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, which chain may be interrupted by one or more hetero-atoms and/or aromatic rings and may contain one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or N.

51. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 50, wherein R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> and, unless the compound is a dimer, R<sub>8</sub> are independently selected from H, OR or a halogen atom.

52. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51, wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently selected from H, OMe,  $OCH_2Ph$ , and I.
53. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51, wherein  $R_7$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently OR or a halogen atom and  $R_6$  and  $R_9$  are H.
54. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 53, wherein  $R_7$  and, unless the compound is a dimer,  $R_8$  are independently selected from OMe,  $OCH_2Ph$  or I.
55. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 50 which is a dimer, wherein the dimer bridge is of the formula  $-O-(CH_2)_q-O-$ , where q is from 3 to 12.
56. (Previously presented) A compound consisting of:

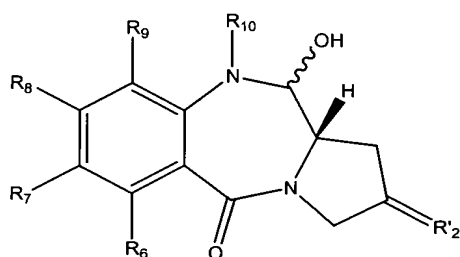


57. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 13 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



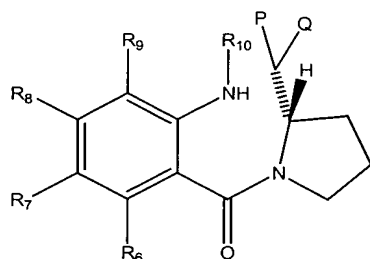
wherein R'<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are as defined in claim 13, R<sub>10</sub> is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



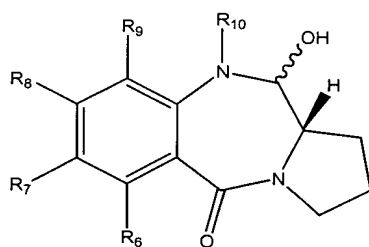
wherein R'<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 13.

58. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 20 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



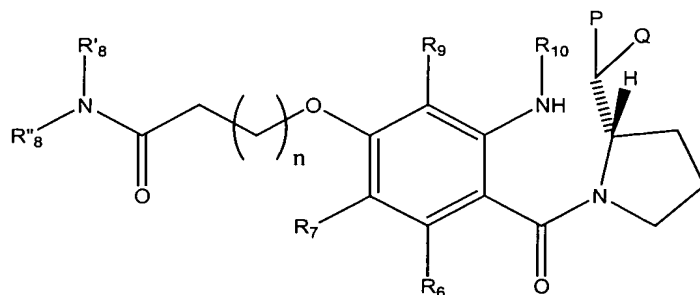
wherein R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, and R<sub>9</sub> are as defined in claim 20, R<sub>10</sub> is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

to a compound of formula



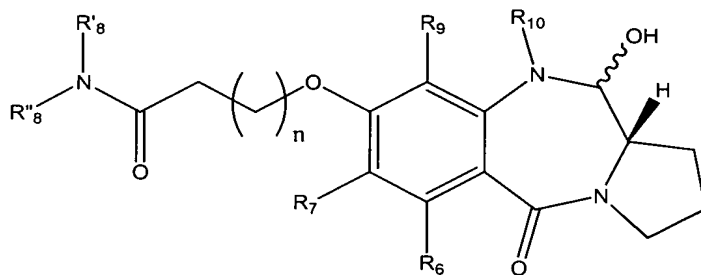
wherein R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 20.

59. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 29 comprising cyclizing a compound of formula



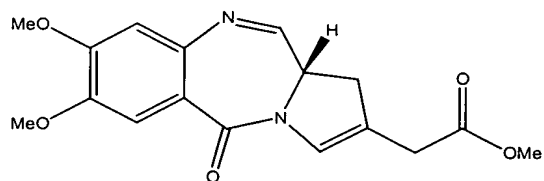
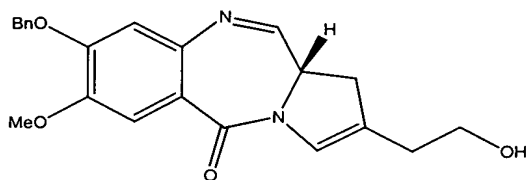
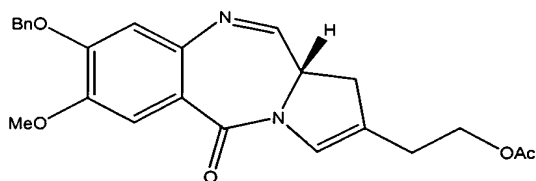
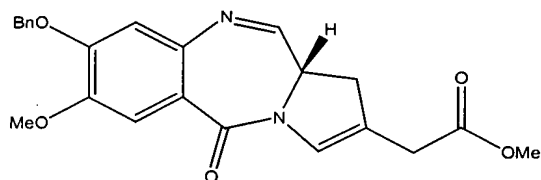
wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8'$ ,  $R_8''$ , and  $R_9$  are as defined in claim 29,  $R_{10}$  is a nitrogen protecting group and CPQ is a masked aldehyde;

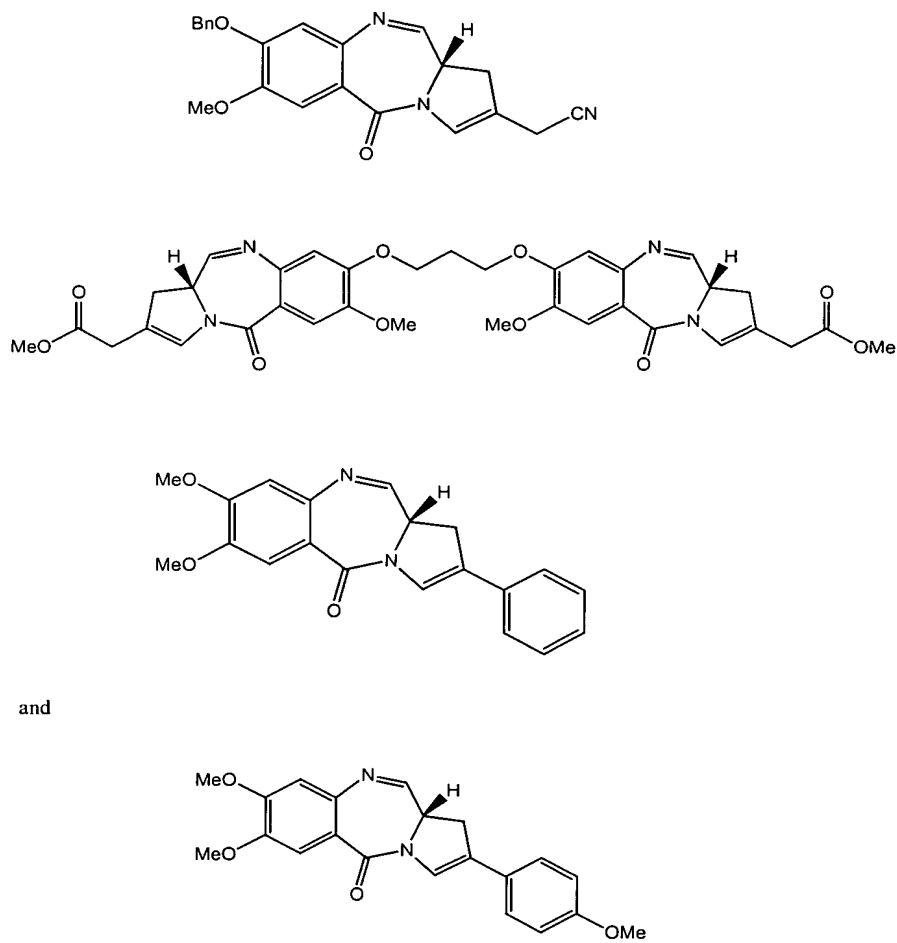
to a compound of formula



wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8'$ ,  $R_8''$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are as defined above, and converting the above compound to a compound according to claim 29.

60. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



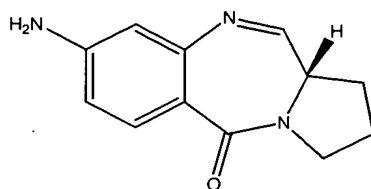


to a patient in need of such treatment and wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer.



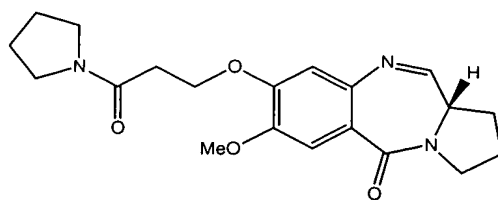
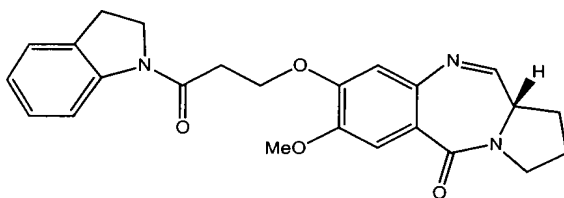
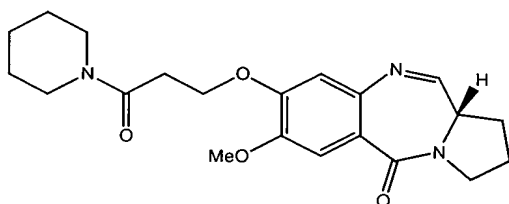
61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula

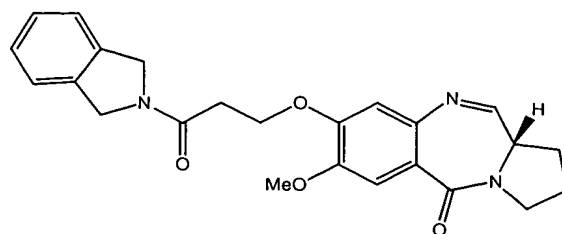


to a patient in need of such treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer, and breast cancer.

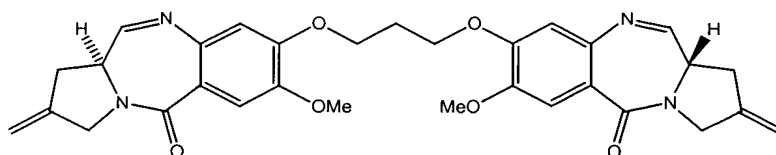
63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



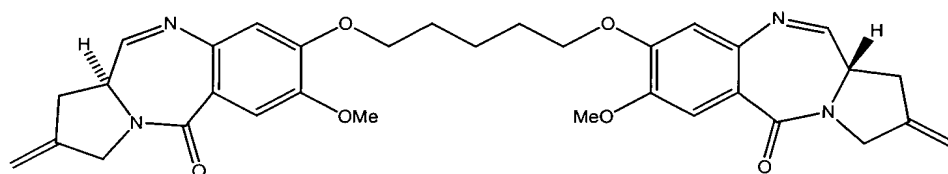
and



64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of



and



65. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to claim 20 to a patient in need of such a treatment wherein the cancer is selected from lung cancer, colon cancer, CNS cancer, melanoma, renal cancer and breast cancer.